

Mr. COBURN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. JOHANNES, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3445. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3446. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to halt the premature proposed listing of 4 central Texas salamander species resulting from a settlement agreement, and to take into account extensive ongoing State and local conservation efforts; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3447. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to permit access to certain disability benefits without penalty; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HAGAN (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3448. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3449. A bill to prohibit purchases by the Federal Government of Chinese goods and services until the People's Republic of China becomes a party to the Agreement on Government Procurement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. RISC, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 3450. A bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations before December 31, 2013, under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 3451. A bill to exempt certain air taxi services from taxes on transportation by air; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3452. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3453. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 529. A resolution recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by supporting education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PRYOR, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 530. A resolution designating the month of August 2012 as "National Registered Apprenticeship Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 531. A resolution commemorating the success of Team USA in the past 25 Olympic Games and supporting Team USA in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KOHL):

S. Res. 532. A resolution expressing support for the XIX International AIDS Conference and the sense of the Senate that continued commitment by the United States to HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment programs is crucial to protecting global health; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 195

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1935

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1935, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

S. 1990

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1990, a bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

S. 2055

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2055, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to the protection of certain information.

S. 2078

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2078, a bill to enable Federal and State chartered banks and thrifts to meet the credit needs of the Nation's home builders, and to provide liquidity and ensure stable credit for meeting the Nation's need for new homes.

S. 2094

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2094, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to update a program to provide assistance for the planning, design, and construction of treatment works to intercept, transport, control, or treat municipal combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows, and to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update certain guidance used to develop and determine the financial capability of communities to implement clean water infrastructure programs.

S. 2268

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2268, a bill to ensure that all items offered for sale in any gift shop of the National Park Service or of the National Archives and Records Administration are produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2472

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2472, a bill to provide for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the United States Postal Service for research and demonstration projects relating to autism spectrum disorders.

S. 3204

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3204, a bill to address fee disclosure requirements under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3239

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3239, a bill to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, and for other purposes.

S. 3326

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3326, a bill to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to extend the third-country fabric program and to add South Sudan to the list of countries eligible for designation under that Act, to make technical corrections to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States relating to the textile and apparel rules of origin for the Dominican Republic—Central America—United States Free Trade Agreement, to approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

S. 3428

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3428, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to partially waive the renewable fuel standard when corn inventories are low.

S. 3436

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3436, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to improve the quality of infant and toddler care.

S. 3442

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3442, a bill to provide tax incentives for small businesses, improve programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. CON. RES. 48

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 48, a concurrent resolution recognizing 375 years of service of the National Guard and affirming congressional support for a permanent Operational Reserve as a component of the Armed Forces.

S. RES. 176

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 176, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should issue a semipostal stamp to support medical research relating to Alzheimer's disease.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BUS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURR, Mr. HELLER, Mr. RISC, Mr. COATS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KYL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, of Wisconsin, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. JOHANNIS, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3445. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss this comprehensive plan for energy security for our Nation.

When I say "energy security," I mean producing more energy than we consume. I believe, with this approach, within 5 to 7 years we can truly be a nation that is energy secure. Again, I mean producing more energy than we consume. This comprehensive plan for energy security is about truly producing all our energy resources in this country.

Many of these bills in this package of Energy bills have already been passed by the House that we are introducing now in the Senate, as well as additional legislation—ideas that Senators have put forward that were adding to it as well.

The approach is similar to the approach we have taken in North Dakota over the last decade. My home State of North Dakota has developed all its energy resources—both traditional and renewable—in a vigorous way over the last decade, and we are now an energy powerhouse for the Nation. We can see what we are doing in oil and gas, but we are doing a tremendous amount in all other forms of energy as well—both traditional and renewable. It is because we worked in a very inclusive way to include everybody's ideas in building a comprehensive energy plan that we call Empower ND—Empower North Dakota.

There was no one person who came up this whole comprehensive plan or

with all the ideas, but we reached out to everyone—all the different energy sectors—and said: Let's collaborate, let's work together, let's pass a comprehensive energy plan, and then let's keep improving it. Let's make it a process rather than a one-time product and keep adding ideas and bringing forth items that will help us spur and drive our energy development in the State, ideas that will create the kind of business climate that will truly empower private investment—private investment that will deploy the new technologies that not only produce more energy but do it with sound environmental stewardship. That is exactly what is happening in North Dakota, and that is exactly what need to do at the national level.

This Domestic Energy and Jobs Act clearly demonstrates that we have an energy plan and that we are ready to go and that we are coordinating with our colleagues in the House as well. Right now there are 30 sponsors for this legislation, including the Republican leadership, as well as the energy leaders.

It also is a plan which has reached out to what the House calls their HEAT team—which stands for House Energy Action Team. Representative MCCARTHY and others, certainly FRED UPTON, who is head of their Energy and Commerce Committee, Representative HASTINGS, and others who are truly energy leaders in the House—people whom I have worked with on things such as the Keystone Pipeline, Representative TERRY and Representative CONNIE MACK and others.

This is about getting people involved in an inclusive way and putting in place an energy policy that truly serves this Nation and empowers private investment. We see how important that is now.

We have hundreds of billions of investment dollars waiting to be invested in producing more energy, more jobs, and more security for our country. This approach will empower private investment to develop all our energy resources. It does things such as reduce the regulatory burden, streamlines permitting—both onshore and offshore—and helps us develop vital infrastructure such as the Keystone Pipeline. It develops our resources on public lands, including our renewables, and setting realistic goals with a market-based approach, not picking winners or losers, and preserving multiple use on our public lands throughout this country. It would put in a freeze and require a study of rules that are driving up our gasoline prices.

It also includes a bill from Senator MURKOWSKI. It directs the U.S. Geological Survey to establish an inventory of critical minerals in the United States and to set policies to help us develop those minerals.

What is the impact? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in March of 2011, undertook a study. In that study, they looked and determined there are more